

News Release



For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2002

Contact: Roy Stearns

Phone No.: 916-654-7538

Email Address: Rstea@parks.ca.gov

FIRES PROHIBITED AT CUYAMACA RANCHO AND PALOMAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARKS

DESCANSO: Effective today, all campfires and smoking are prohibited in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Palomar Mountain State Park. After four years of drought, including rainfall of less than 10 inches last season, the fire danger in both parks is extremely high. Because of these dangerous conditions, park officials have banned all campfires, including charcoal fires, and smoking.

Joining the USFS in declaring a ban on fires and smoking, Dave Van Cleve, District Superintendent of the Colorado Desert District, said, "While we understand that the people camping in our parks look forward to having a campfire as part of their camping experience, we just cannot take the chance of allowing fires or smoking while facing these dangerous conditions. If a fire got away it could devastate the parks, leaving them in a condition that would prevent people from wanting to visit the parks." Van Cleve added, "We are charged with protecting the park resources and, at this time, this is the best way we can do that."

State Park officials first conferred with their counterparts in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) who were in agreement with instituting the ban on fires and smoking. The ban will be in effect until CDF declares the end of fire season, which typically comes after areas receive at least two inches of rain. For more information, you can call Cuyamaca Rancho State Park at (760) 765-0755 or Palomar Mountain State Park at (760) 742-3462.

California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>